



# Fostering digitalisation in the logistics supply chain

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Incheon Law and Business Forum

11 September 2023



International Federation of  
Freight Forwarders Associations

*The global voice of freight logistics*

# Introduction to FIATA

FIATA works at the international level to represent service providers who operate in trade logistics and supply chain management.

Through its:

- Advocacy
- FIATA Documents and Forms
- Digital Strategy, including digitalisation of FIATA Transport Documents, e.g. Digital FBL
- Annual Meetings: HQ and World Congress
- Training and Education
- Sustainability work

... FIATA promotes trade facilitation and best practices among the freight forwarding community.

FIATA's Vision encompasses the expectations of the future:

**'Logistics without borders for a digital and sustainable world'**



109

Association  
Members



6,000

Individual  
Members



40,000

Freight forwarding  
companies served



>150

Countries



2

Annual Global  
Events



4



FIATA Institutes  
and  
3 Working Groups

4

Advisory Bodies

2

Standing  
Committees

4

Regions



# Facilitating the digital trade evolution

## Importance of digitalisation for:

- Trade facilitation
- Optimisation and efficiency of processes
- Greater visibility, integrity and transparency
- Access to a connected and trusted ecosystem
- Ultimately, a key contributor to economic growth

## At the same time, key challenges remain:

- Technology continues to outpace governmental policy and regulation
- Some jurisdictions continue to rely heavily on paper-based processes
- Lack of global harmonisation in the approach to digital processes and documents in international trade



# FIATA Digital Strategy

**6 projects to facilitate data exchange between freight forwarders and their stakeholders through an interoperable, multi-stakeholder approach:**

1. FIATA Digital Identity
2. Digitalisation of FIATA standard trade documents
3. Document certification and digital signatures
4. Professional, trusted network
5. Interoperability
6. Business intelligence

**Supported by FIATA's work to push for legal interoperability by working towards the supporting legal framework (UNCITRAL, MLETR)**



# FIATA standard trade documents

Since 1968, FIATA has established standard trade documents to harmonise documents and forms used by freight forwarders, including:

Non-negotiable  
FIATA Multimodal  
Transport Waybill  
(FWB)

FIATA Forwarders  
Certificate of  
Receipt (FCR)

FIATA Warehouse  
Receipt (FWR)

Marks and numbers	Number and kind of packages	Gross Weight	Measurement
TSVUE	63,329,251 Sapientie qua officia aspernatur qua est enim.	397,164 kg	289,705 m <sup>3</sup>
LNFJX	761,882 Amet excepteur vero.	228,082 kg	559,710 m <sup>3</sup>
OV J03	38,772,296 Perferendis, cubano qui vulgatum explicabo.	414,299 kg	990,599 m <sup>3</sup>
AFJCDK	14,590,107 Quaequillo cupiditate aliquam vero esse quare architecto et.	788,151 kg	27,100 m <sup>3</sup>
ZWJJP	11,574,877 Sed officis doctores nequestas sed evertat ornare.	218,041 kg	582,011 m <sup>3</sup>

Negotiable FIATA Multimodal Transport Bill of Lading (FBL) for international use

- FIATA Forwarders Certificate of Transport (FCT)
- FIATA Shippers Declaration for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (SDT)
- FIATA Shippers Intermodal Weight Certificate (SIC)
- FIATA Forwarding Instructions (FFI)

# Facilitating trade across transport modes

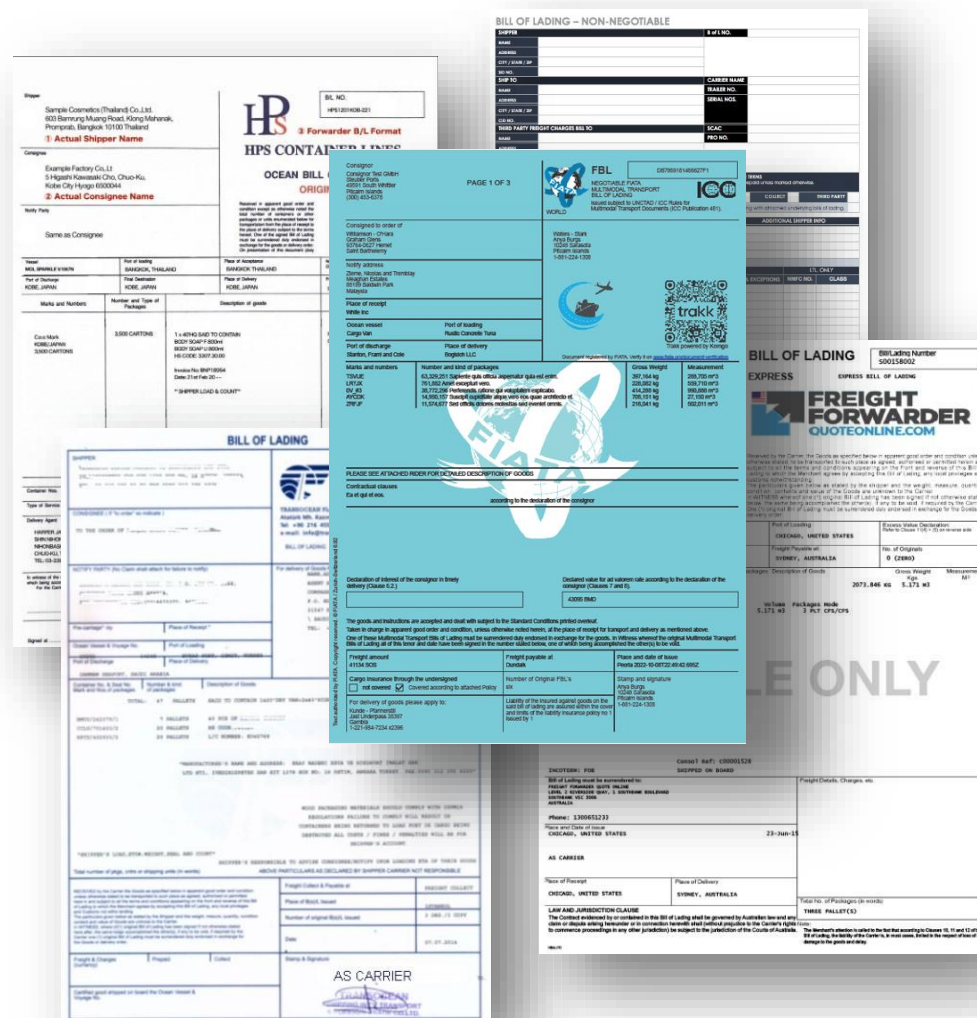
- **Importance of multimodal transport documents** across different transport corridors
- FIATA Bill of Lading is **highly recognised** worldwide, providing the possibility of SMEs to have access to a well-known reputable document according to UNCTAD/ICC standards, knowing the presence of compliance requirements for use e.g. liability insurance requirement, need to be verified
- Negotiable nature provides for **important access to finance** – possibility for FIATA Bill of Lading can be used to access a letter of credit







# The power of standards



In the **paper world**, it is not a big issue to receive documents of different colors and of different formats



In the **digital world**, however, it is crucial to exchange information in a **standardised way**, using the **same vocabulary** and **format** to ensure information is understood in the same way by all stakeholders and to ensure interoperability of platforms

# Facilitating secure and trusted data exchange

- Each document is registered on an **immutable ledger**, protecting it against fraud and allowing all stakeholders interacting with the document to verify the document's validity and the issuer's identity at any time using the dedicated QR code.
- Through the **FIATA Digital Standard**, essential transport data can be exchanged securely by identified stakeholders according to UN data standards, and tracked with a verifiable audit trail using the FIATA Digital Identity

The screenshot displays a document verification interface. On the left, a document titled "DB7869181466627F1-prod.pdf" is shown with a QR code and a "View" button. Below the document title, it states "Registered on 12 May 2022". A timeline shows two events: "Document registered by FIATA" on 12 May 2022 at 10:36:38 pm CEST, and "Document issued by Waters - Stark" on 09 Oct 2022 at 12:49:42 am CEST. The address is listed as Anya Burgs, 10248 Sarasota, Pitcairn Islands. The member is listed as FIATA. A note at the bottom states: "At the time of the document registration, Waters - Stark fulfilled all conditions as specified in the terms and conditions of the FBL". On the right, there is a "Drag & drop to upload or browse to verify" area with a "Verify" button. Below this, it shows "Documents uploaded (1)" with a "Clear all" button. A single document is listed in the upload area: "DB7869181466627F1-prod.pdf" with a close button.

# Digital BL advantages through FIATA unique service

## Printed BL

- ✓ Fully integrated in members' daily processes
- ✓ Save time by avoiding double data entry
- ✓ Issue BL 24/24, 7/7
- ✓ Document protected against fraud, registered on an immutable ledger
- ✓ Document verifiable by all stakeholders interacting with the document
- ✓ Legally recognised as a regular paper BL

## Digital BL

- ✓ Fully integrated in companies' daily processes
- ✓ Save time by avoiding double data entry
- ✓ Issue BL 24/24, 7/7
- ✓ Document protected against fraud, registered on an immutable ledger
- ✓ Document verifiable by all stakeholders interacting with the document
- ✓ Save money and time by sending your document electronically
- ✓ Green solution
- ✓ No more BLs lost
- ✓ Data accuracy



# FIT Alliance: Declaration of the eBL!

https://www.fit-alliance.org

**FIT ALLIANCE**

About Us Sign Now

## Join The eBL Movement.

BIMCO, DCSA, FIATA, ICC, and Swift (The FIT Alliance) have launched the "Declaration of the electronic Bill of Lading" as the adoption of eBLs can help make international trade more efficient, reliable, sustainable, and secure.

About Us The eBL Declaration

**Are you ready to embrace change and contribute to the digitalisation journey within your supply chains and spheres of influence?**

**Join us in signing the Electronic Bill of Lading Declaration, an initiative led by the FIT Alliance.**

**Let's embark on this transformative journey together!**

# Towards an international legal framework

- Push for **implementation of the Model Law on Electronic Transferrable Records (MLETR)** to ensure recognition of digital data exchange as equivalent to paper
- Encouraging active participation in the UNCITRAL work towards an **international legal instrument supporting negotiable multimodal transport documents**
  - Proposal brought by China to facilitate trade financing based on negotiable transport documents for China-Europe intermodal rail shipments
  - FIATA support towards dual track approach – longstanding practice for FBL to be issued as door-to-door negotiable documents overlaying the other documents
  - Electronic negotiable documents contemplated under instrument in progress
- Participating as a member of the FIT Alliance, working according to a multi-stakeholder approach to promote **legal and technical interoperability and standardisation**



# Collaboration is key!

## Need for a greater trust between stakeholders to facilitate data exchange

- Development of trusted network through **FIATA Digital Identity**
- Encouraging adoption of **key data governance principles** to facilitate trust in the handling of digital data – see **FIATA-GSF Data Governance Charter**

## Need to ensure digitalisation facilitates, not hinders, accessibility for SMEs

- Open-source data standard, working to facilitate access through freight forwarders' everyday tools
- Multi-stakeholder approach – working towards inclusive and accessible industry solutions



# Support FIATA's work

**For FIATA members: participate actively in FIATA Institutes and Bodies to provide your input on key industry issues so that they can be brought at the international and regional level**

- FIATA has observer status at the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and is a member of the WCO Private Sector Consultative Group
- FIATA has ECOSOC Consultative Status and frequently acts as a bridge between the industry and governments at the UN level on key transport issues
- FIATA recently gained observer status at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and will provide the important freight forwarder voice on key decarbonization and safety/security topics

**Stay up-to-date with industry intelligence and resources**

- Subscribe to FIATA communication channels for the latest news
- Consult FIATA best practice guides and share information and guidance with your members



# Don't miss the FIATA World Congress 2023 in Brussels, Belgium!



**Brussels – Square Convention Centre**  
**3-6 October 2023**

Register now: <https://fiata2023.com>





# Thank you!

For more information and resources, visit the FIATA website at [www.fiata.org](http://www.fiata.org).

Contact [legal@fiata.org](mailto:legal@fiata.org) for any questions or comments!



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